

Amendments to the Written Description:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

-- In the preferred embodiments described below, a transaction system comprises a plurality of transaction units including one or more of the following: a coin validator, a banknote validator, a card reader, a vending machine. A single controller, which may be housed on one of the transaction units, is capable of controlling all the interconnected units. To achieve this, the controller has an operating system and a memory storing several units of executable code uploaded from the respective transaction units. (In the following, the term "unit" is used to refer not only to a hardware device – that is, a transaction unit – preferably forming a discrete but connected part of the system, but also to a collection of software routines – that is, a code unit – which may, for example, control such a hardware unit.) --